

Spring Volume 101
2025 Issue 01

THE INTERCHANGE

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



Special Annual Session Issue

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Guided by Spirit: Living Our Faith in a Challenging World

Friends of all ages will gather together as a Yearly Meeting for the 353rd Annual Session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting from **July 28 - August 3, 2025** at Hood College in Frederick, MD. Whether this is your 50th Annual Session or your 1st, you are wanted and welcome. In this Special Edition of the Interchange, you'll learn all about Annual Session - from how to register to when you can attend your favorite workshop and everything in-between.

Throughout our 2025 Annual Session, together we'll explore the theme:

Guided by Spirit: Living Our Faith in a Challenging World

Since the time of George Fox, Friends have been advised to let our lives speak. Remaining grounded in Spirit is more challenging than ever. Today's world is rife with conflict, Friends face a host of social ills, including racism, materialism, and militarism set against a backdrop of climate destruction and the breakdown of political institutions and core shared values. How do we remain "in the world but not of the world?" How do we bring the power of Spirit to make our lives speak in the midst of such urgency and long-standing injustice?

We wait in expectant silence, knowing that Spirit is accessible and will guide our lives if we listen attentively and follow faithfully. When we depend on Spirit's guidance, we can live in hope and be confident that creating the Beloved Community is possible.

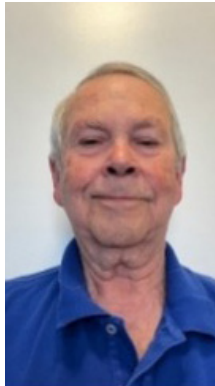
As we gather in faith, let us examine and refresh ourselves in deep listening for Spirit. Let us seek Spirit's guidance to take our next right actions – as individuals and as a body – to let our lives speak in this world. Let Spirit lead and sustain us as we endeavor to heal our broken world, bringing it closer to the Beloved Community for all!

We cannot wait to see you in Frederick! If you have any questions about the ins-and-outs of Annual Session, please contact the Clerk of Annual Session Program Planning Committee, Linda Coates, at lindajcoates@gmail.com.



Pre-Annual Session Retreat

Addressing Conflict: Strategies & Skills for Rooted Quaker Faith and Practice



From L to R: Joan Liversidge (Sandy Spring), Martha Baer (Annapolis), Bob Rhudy (Patapsco), Ramona Buck (Patapsco), and Rich Thayer (Stony Run)

Hosted by the BYM Friends Supporting Friends Working Group

In-person at Hood College

Monday, July 28, 2:30pm - 5:00 pm, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Tuesday, July 30, 9:00am-12:00pm*

As we seek to live into our faith, we are called to firmly root ourselves in our Quaker foundations, grounding ourselves in Spirit and our testimonies. During this retreat, we will share our experiences and consider the connections of our faith, diversity, conflict, relationship repair, and the search for right relationships with each other and with the world. By developing, practicing, and drawing upon strategies that help us engage with conflict constructively and move toward right relationship, we will build our skills and practice peacebuilding together. This retreat will be of interest to all who long for peace through action.

The BYM Friends Supporting Friends Working Group (FSF) seeks to assist with conflicts among BYM Friends, committees, and Monthly Meetings. Under the care of BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee, FSF provides support, training, and consultation grounded in our Quaker faith and practice. There are five regular members as well as a directory of Friends with skills and experience available to assist, as needed. Any Meeting, committee, or individual in BYM who is dealing with conflict or challenge in dealing with others may contact the Friends Supporting Friends group for assistance. The Co-Clerks are Bob Rhudy and Ramona Buck.

***Please note:** Friends are encouraged to attend the entire retreat - which begins on Monday at 2:30pm and continues through Tuesday at Noon. The 2025 Retreat will be in-person only.

Register Online at www.bym-rsf.org/AnnualSession

Registration is open NOW through July 11th. If you need assistance to complete your registration, you can call Lucy at the BYM Office at 301-658-6797 or email Registrar@bym-rsf.org.

Plenary Speakers at Annual Session

Opening Plenary: Lamar Matthew

Tuesday, July 29, 7:00pm

Lamar Matthew is a member of York Monthly Meeting and has been an active Friend for nearly 40 years. Lamar has served as presiding clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and has served on many committees of his local, quarterly and yearly meetings. He holds a love for local and Quaker history and has been a longtime advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. Lamar lives in rural York County, PA with his husband, Harry Scott, III.

2025 Carey Memorial Lecture: Vanessa Julye

Saturday, Aug 3, 7:30pm

Vanessa Julye, Friends General Conference's Associate Secretary for Organizational Cultural Transformation works on increasing awareness of White Supremacy and its impact in the Quaker and sectarian communities. She meets with and provides programs for BIPOC Quakers throughout the world both in-person and virtually. Vanessa is a co-author of the book, *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice* and several pamphlets.



Annual Session Workshops At A Glance

Thursday, July 31st, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

- T1. AFSC's Apartheid-Free Communities Project: Making Our Meetings Just Communities
- T2. How Friends General Conference Hears its Call in this Time+
- T3. Opening Space for New Possibilities in Worship+
- T4. Quakers & Marriage Equality before Loving & Obergefell
- T5. Tactical Mindfulness for Quakers
- T6. The Role of Spirit in Quaker Outreach+
- T7. Tidings of Discomfort and Joy+
- T8. Soulful Singing
- T9. F/friends in Unlikely Places
- T10. Field Trip to Friends Meeting School Farm

Friday, August 1st, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

- F1. Connecting Meetings: Ministry & Pastoral Care
- F2. Faith and Practice, Practice, Practice
- F3. Friends Taking Action for Reparations+
- F4. Human Dignity & Trans Quakers Since 1970
- F5. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women: FCNL's Work to End the Crisis+
- F6. Money Cafe
- F7. Quakerism & Carl Jung
- F8. The Rooted Wheel: Discernment and Action for a Just World
- F9. The War For and Against Quakers: Right Relationship and Public Ministry in the Religious Society of Friends+
- F10. Being in the Right Place at the Right Time

Saturday, August 2nd, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

- S1. Economic Activism for Palestinian Rights and Mideast Peace+
- S2. Poetry in Practice: History and Faith Applications
- S3. Connecting Meetings: Working to Lower Racial Barriers+
- S4. Historical Gems: Knowledge We Have for These Challenging Times+
- S5. Hospitality for Hearing Loss
- S6. Lifelines: Aid Workers in Gaza
- S7. Reproductive Justice as Quaker Witness
- S8. Walking in the World as a Friend
- S9. Worship Sharing on the Optimistic Faith of Julian of Norwich
- S10. Going My Way: Embracing Faithfulness at the End of Life

+ Indicates hybrid workshops that will include both an in-person and Online option.

Annual Session Workshops In Detail

Thursday, July 31st

T1. AFSC's Apartheid-Free Communities Project: Making Our Meetings Just Communities

Apartheid-Free Communities is an interfaith network convened by the American Friends Service Committee. It has over 500 organizational members, including over 35 Quaker meetings and organizations. How can joining help build a principled nonviolent movement to end the US-backed system of Israeli apartheid and help foster a just peace in Israel/Palestine?

Steve Chase (FMW), Noor Nabulsi (AFSC), Jennifer Bing (AFSC)

T2. How Friends General Conference Hears its Call in this Time+

Our world continues to bring challenges into our religious lives. As a Quaker organization, how is Friends General Conference hearing and responding to them? Come and hear how we support monthly, and yearly meetings as well as individual Friends.

Vanessa Julye (FGC)

T3. Opening Space for New Possibilities in Worship+

We will explore how we might broaden our experience of Meeting for Worship, bringing us closer to the Beloved Community for all. We will seek out the unspoken assumptions that limit us, balancing the comfort of familiarity and the hope of transformation.

Melanie Gifford (Adelphi/Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism)

T4. Quakers & Marriage Equality before Loving & Obergefell

This workshop explores how Quakers navigated interracial and same-sex marriage in the decades before the Loving v. Virginia (1967) and Obergefell v. Hodges (2015) Supreme Court decisions. Participants will consider how the Quaker Testimony of Equality shaped these early witnesses to marriage equality and what lessons they offer for today.

Jim Fussell (Langley Hill/Earlham School of Religion)

T5. Tactical Mindfulness for Quakers

How can Quakers cultivate mindfulness and connection to Spirit in moments of tension and uncertainty? Explores tactical mindfulness—a structured approach to staying spiritually grounded in the Light while navigating conflict and crisis. Rooted in principles of discernment, peace, and presence, this session provides practical techniques for responding to challenges with joy, compassion, and integrity.

Dr. Breyette Lorntz (Charlottesville)

T6. The Role of Spirit in Quaker Outreach+

Taking a serious look at what role Spirit can play in our Quaker outreach.

Jim Citro (BYM Advancement & Outreach)

T7. Tidings of Discomfort and Joy+

No matter our age, our daily lives and world events give us just what we need to help us grow closer to the Spirit. Using the writings of a diversity of Friends and friends, we will consider ways to deepen our contemplative lives and ground our actions as we witness to our faith.

Marcy Seitel (Adelphi)

T8. Soulful Singing

All are welcome to join this circle of f/Friends singing joyfully in the oral tradition-no experience necessary! Singing together energizes our bodies, nurtures our souls, and strengthens our community.

Ruth Fitz (Gunpowder)

T9. F/friends in Unlikely Places

Join FCNL and Friends Place on Capitol Hill to learn how to engage in powerful and strategic dialogue to communicate across differing values and perspectives. Drawing on Quaker beliefs, this workshop will focus on practical skills that can build meaningful relationships and strengthen advocacy efforts for the World We Seek.

Olivia Delaplaine (Friends Place on Capitol Hill)

T10. Field Trip to Friends Meeting School Farm

This will be a field trip to visit the farm at Friends Meeting School (FMS) and learn how students at the school are discovering the wonders of the natural world through the farming and gardening program.

Deborah Haines (Alexandria/BYM Unity with Nature), Chris Kimberly (FMS), and Len McGinnis (FMS)

Friday, August 1st

F1. Connecting Meetings: Ministry & Pastoral Care

Come hear from BYM Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee about the Spiritual State of Meeting and Coffee Hours - and share more about the joys and concerns on your own heart and the heart of your Meeting.

BYM Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee

F2. Faith and Practice, Practice, Practice

We are called to live our testimonies of peace, integrity, justice, stewardship and community. How DID we and DO we witness our faith in turbulent and trying times?

Lamar Matthew (York)

F3. Friends Taking Action for Reparations+

In their Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meetings, Friends are bringing love, creativity, courage, and faith to taking action for reparations. In this workshop, we will share what Friends are doing, refine our understanding of reparations, and seek clarity about what we are called to do as Friends for reparations.

Marcy Seitel (Adelphi), Phil Caroom (Annapolis)

F4. Human Dignity & Trans Quakers Since 1970

We will learn about the experiences of trans and nonbinary Quakers since 1970, highlighting challenges and affirmations within Quaker communities. Through history, discussion, and reflection, participants will explore the Equality Testimony's role in trans inclusion and its insights for justice, especially during these times.

Jim Fussell (Langley Hill/Earlham School of Religion)

F5. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women: FCNL's Work to End the Crisis+

Living our Quaker faith means caring when people are oppressed and taking action to seek justice. The number of missing and murdered indigenous women has reached crisis proportions, and barriers at the national and state level make it difficult to protect native women. This workshop will explore the underlying causes of this situation and how legislation could help address them.

Rachel Overstreet (Choctaw Nation/FCNL)

F6. Money Cafe

Money can be a taboo topic. Right Sharing of World Resources brings the Money Cafe where we explore our personal and ancestral histories with money, how this shows up in our relationships, and what kind of choices we can make as we let Spirit move through us.

Nathan Kleban (Right Sharing of World Resources)

F7. Quakerism & Carl Jung

The Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology (FCRP) started in 1943. It has centered on insights mostly from Jung, but not exclusively. Jung said that “In religious matters it is well-known that we cannot understand a thing until we have experienced it inwardly,” and nothing promotes understanding and rapprochement more than mutual withdrawal of projections”.

Walter Brown (Langley Hill)

F8. The Rooted Wheel: Discernment and Action for a Just World

Grounded in the Rooted Wheel framework, this workshop explores how Spirit-led discernment can guide ethical action in today’s challenging world. Through reflection, dialogue, and practical application, Friends will deepen their capacity to align faith with action, fostering resilience and justice while remaining spiritually centered.

Dr. Karim Trueblood and Ricardo Boling

F9. The War For and Against Quakers: Right Relationship and Public Ministry in the Religious Society of Friends+

This interactive, discernment-based workshop is taken from Windy’s recent doctoral work. What is a prophetic imagination or right relationship, and how do they manifest themselves in you and your community? How are you prepared as a worshiping community to discern, support, and hold accountable calls to ministry?

Dr. Windy Cooler (Sandy Spring)

F10. Being in the Right Place at the Right Time

Have I ever had the feeling of being at the right place at the right time? Is there a Right place for me to be in every moment? Can I learn how to be There more often?

Stuart Greene (BYM Ministry & Pastoral Care)

Saturday, August 2nd

S1. Economic Activism for Palestinian Rights and Mideast Peace+

Prophetic Quaker witness includes what we individually buy and invest, as well as engaging in collective economic action for peace and justice. How might economic boycott and divestment campaigns promote Palestinian rights and a just peace in the Middle East? How can we make war and military occupation less profitable through nonviolent economic activism?

Steve Chase (FMW), Dov Baum (AFSC)

S2. Poetry in Practice: History and Faith Applications

Humans have used verse to express their faith for millennia. This workshop, run by a Young Friend, will explore how you can carry this tradition into your faith practice, including a crash course on poetic form and history, readings, and a chance for participants to write their own verse.

Leigh Phelps (Sandy Spring/Young Friends)

S3. Connecting Meetings: Working to Lower Racial Barriers+

Many local Meetings have small groups (sometimes called Change Groups) working to lower racial barriers in their Meetings. Friends doing this work will share with each other what they have been doing, what they plan to do, and the challenges they face.

David Ethridge (FMW/BYM Working Group on Racism)

S4. Historical Gems: Knowledge We Have for These Challenging Times+

Do you know of stories of resistance, surviving authoritarianism, being guided by Spirit? We need your knowledge! Join us as we venture to document stories of the past and present, inclusive of those with a marginalized perspective, that can guide us to resist, stay safe, and maintain integrity while the world tilts.

Daquanna Harrison (Adelphi), Nikki Holland (FMW), and Makeda Crane

S5. Hospitality for Hearing Loss

Hearing loss is one of the most common disabilities. Our Quaker faith calls us to listen deeply to each other and thus accessible communication is at the core of our faith. This session will provide an overview of hearing loss and tips for Meetings on accessibility.

Julie Fitzner (Patapsco)

S6. Lifelines: Aid Workers in Gaza

Join AFSC for a screening and discussion of “Lifelines: Aid workers in Gaza,” a short film that provides a window into the lives and work of aid workers in Gaza in late 2024. Despite being displaced themselves and losing dozens of family members and loved ones, AFSC staff in Gaza have provided life-saving aid to over 1.5 million internally displaced people.

Jacob Flowers (AFSC)

S7. Reproductive Justice as Quaker Witness

The workshop will review how reproductive justice issues fit into Quaker witness and practice on bettering the lives of women and children. It will provide an overview of the current situation in the US and how spiritual considerations can inform our responses, and help us deal with the moral and medical issues that arise from current changes.

Victor Thuronyi (Adelphi), Sharon Stout (Adelphi), and the BYM Working Group on Reproductive Justice

S8. Walking in the World as a Friend

Walking in the World as a Friend explores what it means to live a life dedicated to listening and following Spirit. It explores what it means to believe fully that each person possesses the potential for direct, unmediated access to the Divine, and can experience guidance and transformation from it at any time and in any place.

Douglas Vaughn (Stony Run)

S9. Worship Sharing on the Optimistic Faith of Julian of Norwich

In these trying times, reflect on the words of one of the world’s most optimistic theologians. Julian had religious revelations starting in 1373, a time of plague, great poverty and famine. After reading some of her writings, we will worship share on: “What spoke to me the most deeply?”

Jerry Knutson (Monongalia/Orland)

S10. Going My Way: Embracing Faithfulness at the End of Life

Explore your challenges, joys, questions, doubts, fears, and hopes as you age and approach your tender time. Members of the End of Life Working Group will lead discussion with queries from the book, *A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life*.

Patti Nesbitt (Sandy Spring/BYM End of Life Working Group)



Information for Families At Annual Session

BYM welcomes families to a vibrant community of adults and children! Children (birth- 8th grade) participate for free in BYM's Annual Session. If you're staying on-campus, be sure to choose a Family Room under the Hospitality options. Annual Session provides a range of family-friendly activities such as the popular evening "Coffee House" open-mic and the All Ages Celebration.

In addition, children participate in Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM). At JYM, your child will meet and get to know children from other Meetings, have fun, and learn Quaker values and history. The JYM program is divided by age.

- **Nursery** (infant-preschool) provides childcare in a space filled with loving, creative adults who are ready to play, read books, and run!
- **Elementary** (Grades K-5) provides a variety of adult-led activities and fun focused on the Annual Session Theme.
- **Junior Young Friends** (Grades 6-8) meet in their own community, supported by JYM adults, to learn experientially about Quaker process and participate in a wide variety of activities - sometimes joining the elementary classes and sometimes joining the Young Friends.

Junior Yearly Meeting takes place during all Business Meetings at Annual Session as well as during workshops and evening plenaries. Parents often organize co-op care during other times and to assist with pick up from structured JYM programming.

Young Friends (Grades 9-12) Young Friends self-organize programming under the direction and care of BYM's Youth Programs Manager and volunteer Friendly Adult Mentors ("the FAM"). During Annual Session, Young Friends participate in their own Business Meetings. They organize adventures both on and off campus and run a game of capture the flag for Junior Yearly Meeting. They also join the larger BYM community for meals, workshops, and optional evening lectures. Young Friends also host the highly-acclaimed Coffee House talent show.

New in 2025! Young Friends will lodge with and be under the care of their parents or guardians on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Staffed Young Friends programming and the Young Friends dorm will run Thursday-Sunday.

For more information about programming for children and Young Friends at Annual Session, visit the Annual Session Homepage.

Annual Session At A Glance

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session Schedule for the Week July 28 to August 3, 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00		Breakfast (7:00am - 8:30am) Registration Open 8:30am - 9:00am					
8:00			Morning Groups (8:15-9:15) Bible Study, Worship Sharing, Etc.				
9:00							
10:00		Retreat	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business* (MfW - B)				MfW - B*
11:00			Memorial Meeting*			All Together Worship*	
12:00	Retreat Registration	Lunch (12:00-1:00) Registration Open 12:30pm-2:00pm					
1:00		Siesta (1:00 - 2:00)					
2:00	Worship*	Global Majority (BIPOC) Hang-Out* (1:00 - 1:45pm)					
3:00		MFW - B*	Working Business Session TBD	Workshops*			
4:00	Retreat		Committee Meetings (3:45 - 5:15)				
5:00	Dinner (5:00-6:30) Tues - Sat Registration Open 4:30-5:30pm, 6:30pm - 7:15pm						
6:00		Singing (6:15-7:00)				Worship (6:15pm)	
7:00	Retreat	Opening Plenary*					
8:00			TBD Lecture*	All Ages Celebration	Coffee House	Carey Lecture*	
9:15		Intervisitation	Intervisitation	Intervisitation		Intervisitation	

*Denotes Online/Hybrid Option Available

Annual Session Logistics

Register Online at www.bit.ly/BYMSessions2025

Registration is open NOW through July 14th. If you need assistance to complete your registration, you can call Lucy at the BYM Office at 301-658-6797 or email Registrar@bym-rsf.org.

Fees & Payment

We are excited to keep the 2025 suggested registration rates equal to or lower than rates in 2022, 2023, and 2024! In addition, we will continue to use a Pay-As-Led model. The suggested registration rate represents the true cost of participating in BYM's Annual Session. Please keep this cost in mind as you determine the amount you are led to pay for your registration or the registration for your entire group. Friends may pay any amount they choose - below or above the rate.

Registration above the suggested rates helps ensure all Friends can attend, regardless of ability to pay. The generosity of Friends paying above the suggested rate has allowed us to lower the rate for high school aged Friends again this year. If you are paying more than the suggested rate and would like a tax deduction letter for the amount over your suggested fees, please email Development@bym-rsf.org.

Each lodging night includes three meals, beginning with dinner on the day of arrival and continuing through lunch the following day. For Commuters, the rate includes two meals each day. When registering Online, you will have the choice to pay by credit card or check.

2025 Annual Session Rates		
Adult Double	\$110/night	Includes room, linens, 3 meals, facility fees, and online access
Adult Single	\$125/night	
Young Friends		
<i>Grades 9-12</i>	\$75/night	
Children		Includes 2 meals, daily facility fee, and online access
<i>Birth-8th Grade</i>	Free	
Adult Commuter	\$75/day	
Online-Only	\$50	Online access for the entire week
Single Event	\$25	Online or in-person

Accessibility

BYM strives to create an Annual Session where all are welcome and everyone has what they need to actively participate. The dorms at Hood College were constructed in 2020-2021 and are accessible for a variety of needs including low threshold, single-step showers; individual climate control; rooms with private bathrooms and refrigerators; and wheelchair accessible rooms. However, some events are held in older buildings that are ADA-compliant but may be inconvenient or require extra time to navigate. Maps are available from the Information Desk showing all accessible entrances for Annual Session buildings. Some accessible entrances may be on the backside of a building. The location of Business Meeting is accessible but access to the bathroom in that building requires first exiting the building to access bathrooms via another entrance. Sound is amplified for Meeting for Business and Meeting for Worship and transcripts are enabled on Zoom. We also provide Bluetooth access for participants who use Bluetooth enabled hearing aids. Volunteer drivers provide rides in golf carts to help Friends move between buildings throughout Annual Session. To discuss your access needs, please contact the Registrars at registrar@bym-rsf.org.

Check In

Links for all Online Annual Session programs will be emailed to registered participants. New in 2025, we will be unable to provide the express check-in, so all Friends must check-in with our registrar. The registration hours have been changed and you will not need to check in before joining meals. Friends arriving after the Registration Desk has closed for the day may call the number posted on the Registration Desk, the door of Blazer Hall and on Annual Session web page.

Monday: 12:00 - 2:30 pm, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Tuesday - Saturday: 8:30 - 9:00 am, 12:30 - 2:00 pm; 4:30 - 5:30 pm; 6:30 - 7:15 pm

Policies & Procedures

Visit the BYM Annual Session web page for information on the Annual Session code of conduct, refunds, and this year's Covid policy. www.bym-rsf.org/events/AnnualSession



All About Annual Session

All Together Worship: On Sunday morning at 11:00am, we'll end Annual Session with All Together Worship - joining together through the power of Zoom everyone at Annual Session and Friends from across our Yearly Meeting. Whether you plan to attend Annual Session or not, we'll look forward to seeing you at BYM All Together Worship on Sunday, August 3rd!

Bible Study & Worship Sharing: Following breakfast each morning, many Friends begin the day with worship sharing, Experiment with Light, Chanting or Bible study in small groups. You may register Online or in person on the sheets near the BYM Information table. We hope that you will feel comfortable for the whole week in your morning group. If your group just doesn't fit, it's fine to ask another group's leader if you may join them.

Bookstore: This summer, the Bookstore will feature new titles and a wide variety of gently used books to choose from, plus a wide selection of crafts. Bookstore Hours are posted each day in the Daily Minute. Please remember the Bookstore is not open during Business Meetings or during the evening Plenary Sessions.

Friends are invited to offer items for sale as a vendor at the Bookstore. Quilted items, pottery, clothing, independently published materials, and all manner of crafts and goods are welcome. Simply contact the Bookstore Manager at bookstore@bym-rsf.org.

Coffee House: An open-mic talent show for Friends of all ages. Bring your poetry, instrument, hidden talent, Dad jokes, et al.

The Daily Minute: The Daily Minute is Annual Session's daily communication about scheduling changes, room assignments, late-breaking content, and much more. The Daily Minutes is available in paper copy at Annual Session and Online each morning on the Annual Session Website.

Daily Singing: Gather 'round, Friends. We will sing hymns around the piano together Tuesday-Friday evening. All God's critters have a place in the choir!

Global Majority Hang-Out Space: The Global Majority Caucus will facilitate a Global Majority Hang-Out Space on Wednesday through Saturday, from 1 pm to 1:45 pm. The Hang-Out will be Hybrid, with both in-person and Zoom connection, bringing in Friends from far and wide to join this Space, which is exclusively for Global Majority Friends.

The term "Global Majority" encourages those who are dual- or multi-heritage, Indigenous, Aboriginal, Black, Pacific Islander, Brown, and West, South or East Asian to see themselves as belonging to the global majority rather than as "minorities." These groups represent about 80% of the world population. Note: The term "People of Color," by contrast, centers whiteness as the norm, while implying that white people have no race in a racialized world.

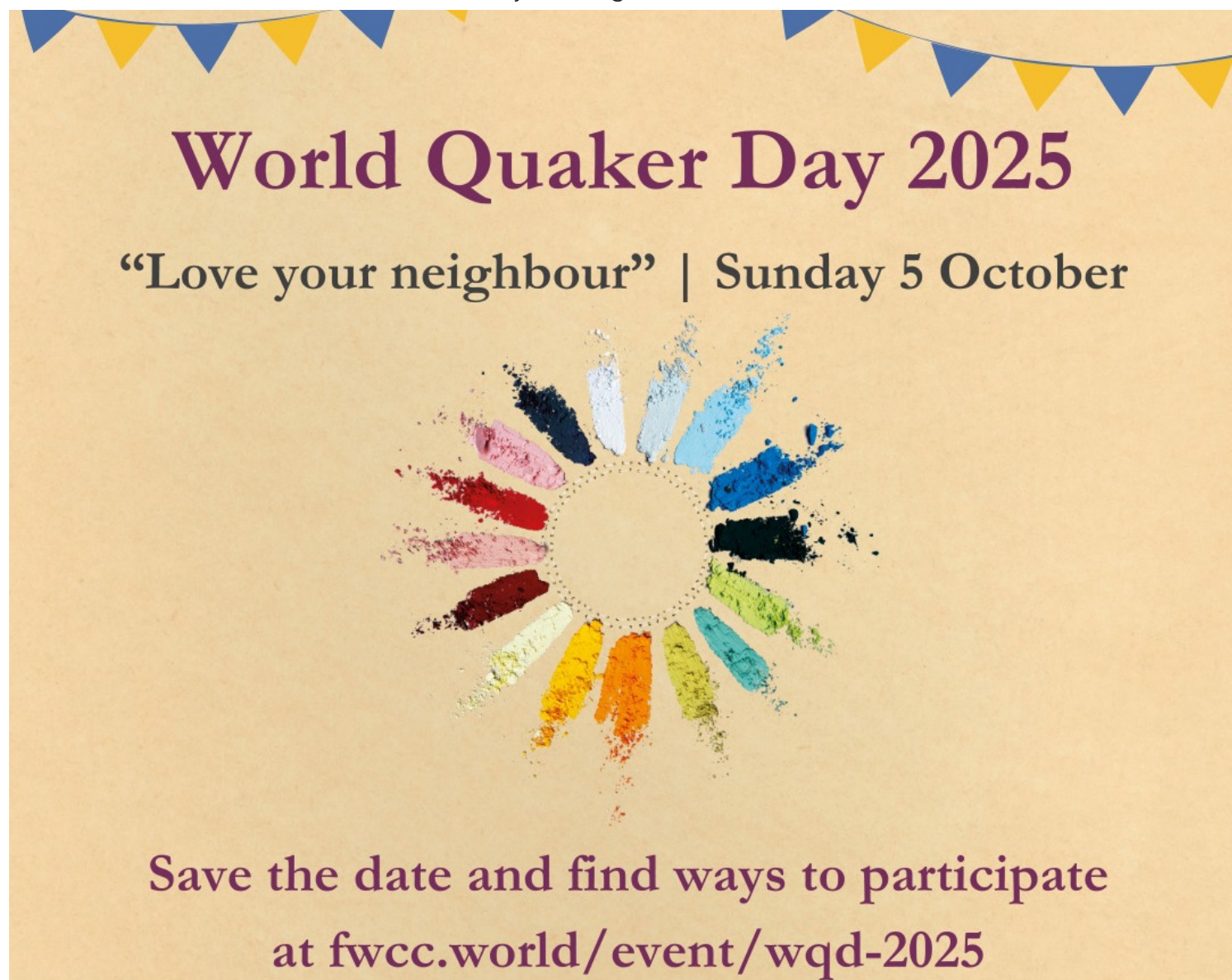
Interest Groups: Interest Groups provide a great way to gather informally to focus on topics of interest to Friends. They meet Thursday or Friday at 4:15. Topics and locations are announced in the Daily Minute. If you would like to hold an interest group, please make your request no later than 4 pm, a day in advance using the on-line form or paper copy at the Information desk to be sure to get an assigned space. Since we can only have a limited number of groups at a time, there is a priority list for subjects, and space is not guaranteed.

Intervisitation Lounge: Light refreshments are offered on the Ground floor of the dorm at 9:15 each evening (except Friday) This is an opportunity for visitors to Baltimore Yearly Meeting to get together with members of BYM to build the community of Friendship and discuss the concerns and joys that are rising up among various Yearly Meetings. We look forward to connecting with those that have joined us in the past and those new to our sessions. This is a great time for informal sharing of experiences from our visits to other Meetings and from visitors to our own Yearly Meeting. There are also card and board games available.

Meeting for Worship: Annual Session begins with an unprogrammed Meeting for Worship on Tuesday at 2:00pm, followed by the first business session. All of our business sessions are held in a spirit of worship, and Friends are invited to enter the Meeting space Online or in-person a few minutes ahead to settle into worship. On Saturday, Friends are invited to a Christ-centered programmed worship hosted by Friends Church of Baltimore. On First Day (Sunday) morning, the entire community gathers for unprogrammed worship at 11:00am.

Meeting for Business: Meeting for Business begins with a reading and a period of silent worship. Copies of the Annual Reports of committees and groups, Interim Meeting Minutes, and other documents are made available in advance - via the BYM website and limited printed copies available in-person. This is core information about what the Yearly Meeting has done in the last year and explains a great deal about what goes on.

Memorial Meeting: Join with Friends on Saturday to hold in our hearts Friends who are no longer with us and share memorial minutes from across the Yearly Meeting.



Community News

The Interchange shares updates from across our Yearly Meeting. News for the Fall Issue of the Interchange can be sent to admin@bym-rsf.org by September 19th, 2025. Information about births, deaths (including Memorial Minutes), or new memberships within your Meeting are also lovingly received by the Yearly Meeting anytime at the same address.

Adelphi Friends Meeting

Greetings from Adelphi Friends Meeting! As we move into the end of 2024 there are many things that we are grateful for at AFM. We continue to have an active community with some individuals who are working on anti-war issues, others who are working on climate change issues, and still others addressing racism and reparations. There are also a variety of activities related to building community and caring for our members. Several members went to Gaza to absorb first hand what is happening there and continue demonstrating against the war in the Middle East. The Climate Action group held another successful Repair Cafe in October and one member continues to maintain compost bins for meeting members. On Election Day, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee held an on-line vigil from noon to 8:00 pm for individuals to come and hold a sacred and hopeful silence for a peaceful election process. Every Wednesday at noon (on zoom), we continue to hold a Meeting for Worship with a focus on “healing a broken nation”. Anyone can join us! (The link is on our website).

We are in the midst of planning an addition to our Meetinghouse to add on a somewhat bigger lobby, kitchen and social space-all on the same floor as the Meeting room. We are in the permitting process and have chosen a contractor for this project and hope to start construction in early 2025. Community events we have enjoyed include a joint celebration with Friends Community School of their September birthday, ongoing “Friends, Fibers and Fun” gatherings for crafters to make art together, and sharing a pre-Thanksgiving bonfire and simple dinner to give thanks together for all that we have. Blessings to all for peace, hope and love in 2025.

Submitted by: Carole Hoage

Annapolis Friends Meeting

Annapolis Friends launched six Meetings for Learning entitled “Quaker Foundations: Seekers Series” covering topics including Testimonies, Social Justice, Christianity and Universalism, Early Quaker Movement, and Vocal Ministry. Our thanks to Bethesda Friends for their guidance on this project. Resources included Marsha Holliday’s Exploring Quakerism and BYM’s Faith and Practice. The sessions are held between our 8:00am and 11:00am Meetings for Worship in-person and on-line. Almost 50 seekers have attended each session, many of whom are newcomers.

We have developed an “Opportunities” list of ways newcomers can get involved in the Meeting, including Friendly 8s, Spiritual Friends, Green Group, Market, pastoral care outreach, Meeting House work days, working at our booth at festivals, our book discussion group, etc. As “committee service” sometimes feels daunting to newcomers, these baby steps have been helpful ways to help newcomers get involved. Over the past year, we have combined four committees into two: (i) Ministry and Pastoral Care, and (ii) Communications and Outreach. This gives each committee more members with a broader range of interests. Committee clerks gather quarterly to consider cross-committee topics and build community.

Submitted by: Barbara Thomas

Charlottesville Friends Meeting

Charlottesville Friends were delighted to welcome many visitors to our Meeting this fall, including children, many who have become regular attenders. In addition, we had two membership requests and recorded memberships: Susan Hackney and Patrick Maresco.

Our youth have been practicing mindfulness, learning about historical Quakers, and working on a service project. On potluck Sundays the youth spend First Day School cooking and learning about the significance of a recipe to the adult who is leading them. In December, instead of doing a more traditional Christmas program, we had joyful chaos, with our young people showing the adults how to make pine-cone feeders and edible garlands for the birds. This was followed by Christmas carols. This program was enthusiastically received, and it may be the start of a new tradition. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee focused on getting out the vote this fall and started to plan more actions around the violence between the Palestinians and the Israelis. They used discretionary funds to make some large contributions to Ramallah Friends School and other organizations working in the region. They have planned a series of programs and actions for January.

Submitted by: Linda Goldstein

Dunnings Creek Friends Meeting

Dunnings Creek Meeting is continuing our outreach to our community as well as our support to members and friends. Handmade Valentines were delivered to neighbors, and we were happy one recipient said they would like to visit Meeting and learn about us. We are preparing for our next Still Listening Event, our series exploring Black History in Bedford County. On May 3rd at 2 p.m. at the Meeting House historian and educator Harriet L. Gaston will speak on "Migration at Claysburg, PA., 1910-1930, and 1940-1960."

Longtime and beloved Meeting Member Lynda Elizabeth Miller passed 2/9/25. Lynda was known for her life of love and service, her curiosity, and finding joy in the moment, especially nature. Her life was celebrated at the Meeting House on April 5th.

Submitted by: Ellen Prentiss Campbell

Homewood Friends Meeting

Barbara Ruland, a longtime member of Homewood, a community organizer in Baltimore, and an international activist, passed away on June 1st at the age of 78. A memorial Meeting for Worship was held at Homewood on September 14th. Barbara was a kind and forthright Friend who had friends and colleagues from several different strands of her life. The Memorial reminded Friends how much Barbara contributed to Baltimore and Homewood. In mid-November, the Meeting's Outreach team sponsored a Homecoming and a "Bring a Friend to Homewood" replete with a pancake breakfast, worship sharing out of silence with messages about the role of the Meeting in our lives and a special lunch. The worship sharing guided by queries on community was nurturing and moving. We had approximately 110 people participating including 30 people Online. The recent outcome of the national election was on the minds and hearts of many people and it was a joy and a comfort to be with so many Friends.

Homewood hosted Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM) on Sunday, February 9th. The program for the day focused on legislative priorities for the Maryland General Assembly and featured panelists from Quaker Voice of Maryland and Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform as well as Friends Committee on National Legislation. Homewood is experiencing extraordinary growth in attendance of both young adults and older folks. Our nursery is bustling with young children. We are thrilled by this growth in attendance and are excited to meet the challenge posed by incorporating these new attenders into the life of the Meeting.

Submitted by: John McKusick

Herndon Friends Meeting

In September, Herndon Friends held a used bicycle collection for Bikes for the World, collecting 71 bikes and one sewing machine. We continued our annual tradition of Saturday-evening Christmas Sing, with hospitality followed by carol singing including a story, thus definitively answering for ourselves the question, “Do Quakers celebrate Christmas?”.

Although our building is too small to participate as a hypothermia shelter, we twice served dinner to the clients. Financially, we are fortunate to have a reserve fund that started to build up at a time when we were considering moving to a larger building. Rather than allow it to continue to grow at Friends Fiduciary, we have decided to dedicate the dividends to local charities, choosing one or two every six months.

Submitted by: Margaret Fisher

Patapsco Friends Meeting

Patapsco Meeting is growing into some post-pandemic changes. We now host two pot luck lunches after meeting each month. Clare Mansour, daughter of Erinn Mansour, has been hired to teach Religious Education to the older children in our meeting. She is well versed in Quaker thought. Now, nearly all of our meetings are held in hybrid; while we are missing some attenders and members, new people have started coming to our meetings.

Chesapeake Quarter held Quarterly Meeting at Patapsco on September 29. Along with sharing meetings' activities and each others' fellowship, Martha Baer of Annapolis Meeting held a rich and information-filled workshop on AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project).

Our annual fall retreat was held on November 2. Four speakers from our meeting spoke on their personal spiritual practices. In breakout rooms all attendees were encouraged to share their personal practices. Friends found this a good way to get to know each other “in that which is eternal” and the day was well-received.

Some of us are working to help a local refugee family. An apartment was found for them in northeastern Baltimore City. Members of Stony Run, Homewood, and Deer Creek meetings may find that their new home is located close, and if possible may be able to help them. For example, the two high school age girls need guidance on using the city bus system. If you're able to help, please contact Erinn Mansour erinn@campmansour.com.

Our meeting was saddened by two losses: One was Becca Gardner-Rhudy, a long-time attender of Patapsco and wife of Bob Rhudy, who we shared with Deer Creek Meeting. Becca had dirt under her fingernails, a voice full of music and a grin on her face. We also lost Jan Warner, an elder Friend who passed away in the summer who was of Native American heritage and brought to Patapsco this rich understanding. She was always ready to explain the significance of her dramatic turquoise jewelry and her tribal heritage.

On December 15 a long-time member got married at Patapsco Friends Meeting in a sweet and loving celebration. Her new husband brought members of his faith and interfaith harmony into Hebron House. On December 24 the meeting held its annual Christmas Eve service: an evening of worship, carol singing, and shared cookies. It was a sweet way to end a season of activity.

Submitted by: Jean Pfefferkorn

Richmond Friends Meeting

Richmond Friends Meeting feels enormously blessed to have just under two dozen children enrolled in our First Day school (this after several years of almost no children). Our First Day teachers and helpers are dedicated to helping the children be instilled with Quaker values. Fall activities included family worship outdoors at our Amelia Country retreat center; collections for UNICEF; a celebration of Bodhi Day, the Buddhist Day of Enlightenment; and many other programs.

The Peace & Social Concerns Committee sponsored a very successful silent art auction and luncheon to benefit World Central Kitchen. Sold items were made by Friends or came from their homes. The auction netted \$2,125. After a two-year discernment process involving deep listening, study and prayerful reflection, the ad hoc Committee on Race and Racism presented a proposed action/implementation plan at the November business meeting. The recommendation is under active review by the full meeting.

More than a dozen Friendly Eights—or interest groups—are currently drawing participation from members and attenders. Topics include Singing, Field Trips to Black History Sites, Stitching, Games, Prayers for Healing, Old Friends/New Friends, and The Historical Jesus Book Group.

Submitted by: Margaret Edds

Thank you for all the ways you participate in BYM.

From the spiritual formation retreat, annual sessions, summer camp, or committee meeting, we are so grateful for your participation!

If you would like to send a gift to support our many services and programs, you can scan this QR code or visit www.bym-rsf.org/giving/donate.html



Indigenous Affairs Committee: BYM's Apology and Reparations to the Pawnee People

At the 2024 annual session, Baltimore Yearly Meeting approved financial reparations to the Pawnee people. Our BYM predecessors organized and managed schools for Pawnee children in the early 1870s. Friends insisted that English be the primary language used at the schools, which helped break traditional and cultural ties within Pawnee society. (For more information on the period during which BYM Quakers were appointed as Indian agents and also ran schools for Pawnee students, see Martha Caitlin's book: "As They Were Led: Quakerly Steps and Missteps Toward Native Justice, 1795-1940.") As a gesture demonstrating our will to help repair the damage caused by BYM, we agreed to offer the Pawnee people \$10,000 in 2024 and \$10,000 again in 2025. The funds may be used to support a language restoration program that is currently being offered. Three BYM Friends journeyed to Oklahoma in November 2024 to convey an apology to the Pawnee people and provided the first check from BYM.

On November 11, 2024, Patricia Powers, Susannah Rose, and Sue Marcus met Herb Adson, Cultural Director for the Pawnee Nation. We participated in a Pawnee Veterans Organization luncheon celebrating retired and active-duty Pawnee military personnel. Each Veteran was separately acknowledged with a description of his or her service. After lunch, dances were held. Some Pawnee men and women wore regalia, and many children danced or walked along with their elders. There were two large drums with several men at each. We Friends were asked to introduce ourselves and briefly spoke about our purpose for being there. Later, many individuals thanked us for coming "from the East." Pawnee leaders made it clear that Quakers having the courage to make amends and to do so in person was meaningful and appreciated.

Herb Adson invited us to present the BYM check and a second check from Annapolis meeting at a Pawnee language class and tell them why we were there. Pat Powers described serious Quaker mistakes, such as requiring Pawnee children to speak English, and a few positives, such as Quakers helping to free from jail Pawnee men who were falsely accused of murdering a white man. There was applause and spontaneous picture-taking by class members who welcomed our acknowledgment of past harms.

It seemed that the apology was especially important. Money helps, but by appearing in person we made it clear that we were sincere in our wish to make amends. In addition to the check from BYM, Alexandria Meeting contributed just over \$1,000 from its annual homecoming event. Individual BYM members have also sent checks to the Pawnee for their culture and language classes.

Additionally, Susannah and Sue met with David Nagle, a Quaker Pastor from Hominy Friends Church, OK, the Quaker meeting closest to the Pawnee lands.

Native people often use the words "Honor," "Respect," "Gratitude." We experienced all of these in our interactions with members of the Pawnee Nation. We three Friends were honored to represent BYM. Thank you, Friends, for allowing us this unique opportunity for reparations and learning.

Submitted by: Susannah Rose, Co-Clerk, Indigenous Affairs Committee



BYM Friends visit the Pawnee Nation to Make Reparations



Reparations Action Working Group: Should Friends Support The National Movement For Reparations?

Our BYM Reparations Action Working Group (RAWG) says YES! We believe that Friends should actively support this national movement. The work of reparations for African Americans is already underway at state and local levels - such as the state of California, the cities of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Evanston, Illinois, to name a few. The work toward reparations affirms the equality of all people, the importance of community, and the loving work of finding justice and healing where harm has been done.

After nearly 200 years, Friends are still remembered for the public stand we took for the abolition of slavery. It is remarkable that a stand our Quaker ancestors took so long ago is still meaningful to people now. And it is meaningful to Friends - we are proud of ancestors who were involved in the work of abolition. Today, we still live with the consequences not only of chattel slavery, decades of Jim Crow laws, and the deep inequality in our society brought by racism - but also the consequences of not addressing and repairing the impact of racist harm in each era.

We can take steps now to make things right, or as right as possible. By supporting the work of national reparations, we are supporting the formation of a commission that would look at the history of racial harm to African Americans, and then recommend specifically what might address and repair this harm. Changes in laws and policies, finding mass graves, correcting wrongful accusations, acknowledging important contributions that have been hidden, awarding funds the same way that funds are awarded for other harms, to name just a few things.

RAWG Friends find the work of considering reparations to be deeply spiritual. Taking an honest look at the impact of racism, with our minds and hearts open, and not being discouraged but seeing that healing is possible - this is truly a spiritual quest.

We ask BYM Friends to continue learning about reparations. Please read about reparations in California, in Tulsa, and other places. There is a logic to reparations that needs careful attention and consideration. We all have a lot to learn. Please check our web page on the BYM website for opportunities for learning, and please do your own web search, too. A lot of good things are happening. There is a lot that Friends can do to strengthen the reparations movement. What are Friends called to do?

Submitted by: Marcy Seitel



End Of Life Working Group

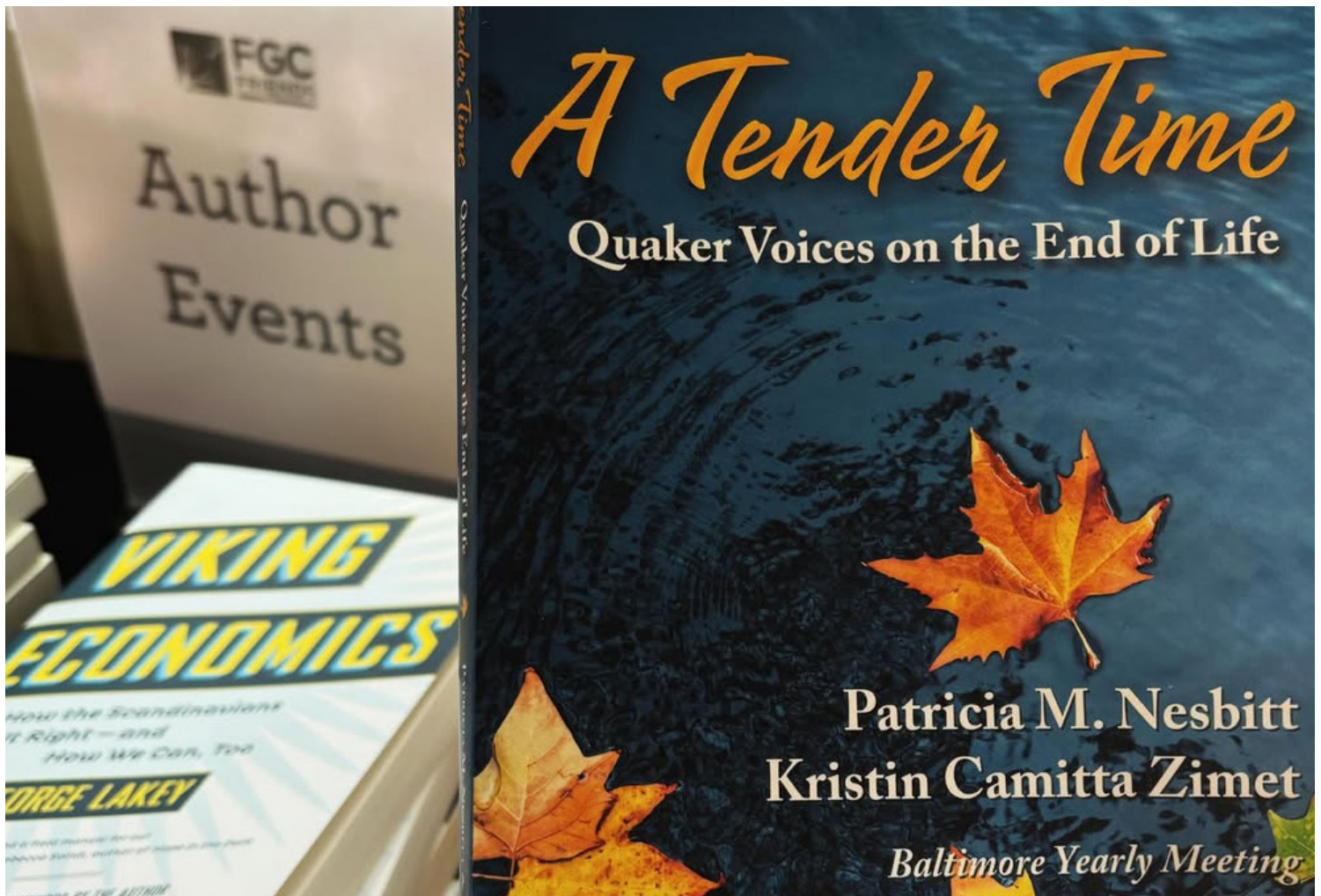
Since BYM published the book *A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life* this past June, we continue to hear positive reviews about how useful it has been to Friends and families. It was the sounding board for well attended workshops over the summer and a Pendle Hill series of three on-line seminars in September. Over 180 Friends registered for those seminars led by Patti Nesbitt (Sandy Spring), Kristin Zimet (Hopewell Centre) and Eileen Stanzione (Patapsco).

A Tender Time is more than a book about aging, dying, and caregiving - it is a compassionate guide about loving one another at the end of life in ways consistent with our testimonies. It has touched many hearts, transformed difficult conversations, and given hope to aging Friends. It has been the top seller at both Pendle Hill bookstore and FGC QuakerBooks this year.

The book offers several sets of queries and many practical details for the person who wants to age and die well, to those who are caregivers and supportive F/friends, and for Meeting communities. Several Meetings around the country are using it in adult RE sessions and reading groups. An electronic version is in the queue at this time, awaiting resolution of more pressing issues for our BYM staff.

BYM offers bulk discounts to Meetings and Quaker groups, and invites you to request more information. Members of the EOLWG offer support to Friends and Meetings around the many universal concerns about aging and dying in the Light. We welcome other Friends who are led to join this ministry. Please send us an email at eolwg@bym-rsf.org.

Submitted by: Patti Nesbitt



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BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING, EST. 1672

Baltimore Yearly Meeting nurtures a vibrant Quaker community across the Mid-Atlantic. BYM unites Friends from 50 Quaker meetings and worship groups throughout VA, MD, PA, WV, and DC. Together we strengthen local meetings, grow in spirit, nurture youth, and connect and serve as Friends.

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